

REMARKS

Claim 45 has been canceled without disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein or prejudice to Applicants' right to file any continuation applications directed thereto. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 9-18, 20-22 and 32-44 are pending.

In the Office Action dated July 18, 2006, claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerwin (U.S. Patent No. 4,239,570) in view of Gates et al. (U.S. Reissued Patent No. RE 29,335) and Tsai (U.S. Patent No. 6,516,854. While Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons discussed in the Request for Reconsideration filed on September 18, 2006, claim 45 has been canceled, thereby mooting this rejection.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-6, 9-18, 20-22, and 32-44. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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